

Strategic Visioning & Master Plan

Vision

Core Values

The City of St. Marys values:

- ⇒ Our environment, including our natural and historic resources and temperate climate.
- ⇒ Quality education for our youth as well as continuing education for life skills, job training, and lifelong learning.
- ⇒ The diversity of our citizens and the importance of the people in all of our neighborhoods.
- ⇒ Our small town atmosphere that is founded in southern hospitality, commitment to helping others, patriotism, and the importance of family.
- ⇒ Access for all citizens to City services, employment, education, and desirable quality of life.

Goals

Economic Prosperity

Support the development and expansion of businesses and industries that are suitable for the community, generate employment opportunities, and contribute to the vitality of the local, regional and global economy.

Resource Management

Protect and promote the efficient use of our community's natural, historic, cultural and human resources.

Efficient Land Use

Maximize the use of existing infrastructure and minimize the costly conversion of undeveloped land at the periphery of the community.

Local Preparedness

Identify and implement the necessary improvements and programs to achieve our Vision including: infrastructure, regulations to appropriately manage growth; capable leadership and staff, and disaster preparedness.

Sense of Place

Protect, enhance, and promote the community's unique qualities including the marshes and waterfront, historic downtown, access to Cumberland Island, the future Spaceport and connection to the Navy Base.

Regional Cooperation

Foster and atmosphere of cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions as well as regional, State and Federal agencies to address shared needs through adequate funding, legislation and technical assistance.

Housing Opportunities

Promote a healthy range of safe, affordable, inclusive, and resource efficient housing that meets the needs of all residents of the community.

Transportation Options

Work cooperatively Georgia DOT and Coastal Regional Commission and to address the multi-modal transportation needs, challenges and opportunities for all community residents to provide for safe, reliable, and accessible sidewalks, multi-use trails, bike lanes, transit, and roadways.

Educational Opportunities

Continue to support the superior pre-K through 12 school system and make educational and training opportunities readily available to enable all community residents to improve their job skills, adapt to technological advances, or pursue life ambitions.

Community Health

Ensure that all community residents, regardless of age, ability, or income, have access to critical goods and services, health care, safe and clean neighborhoods, education, healthy food, recreational facilities, cultural activities, and good work opportunities.